



**FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 12, 2014 (after 7:30 pm EASTERN)**

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**Ontario Wood *WORKS!* Wood Design Award Winners Announced:  
Architectural Achievements and New Opportunities for Wood Design Celebrated**

(Toronto, November 12, 2014) A select group of Ontario's leading architects, engineers, and project teams received Wood Design Awards at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Wood *WORKS!* celebration in Toronto tonight. The awards program recognizes people and organizations that, through design excellence, advocacy, and innovation, are advancing the use of wood in all types of construction.

"The role of wood in commercial and institutional construction is growing," says Marianne Berube, executive director of the Ontario Wood *WORKS!* program. "Over the last 14 years, we've seen all kinds of wood buildings nominated for awards and this year is no exception."

Winning projects this year include the wood veil at Lansdowne Park's CFL stadium in Ottawa, three schools, a recreation complex, as well as some very unique artistic projects.

"There are many reasons for the increased use of wood," explains Berube. People understand and appreciate wood's environmental benefits and, in many applications, designers and developers are also reporting significant time and cost savings. Also, new products, advancements in manufacturing, and innovative designers have expanded opportunities for using wood."

"This year is a particularly special celebration because it marks the beginning of a new era for wood construction. Tonight we are not only privileged to recognize the winners of this year's awards program but also pleased to celebrate the Ontario Building Code changes that have created opportunities for the construction of entirely new building types in Ontario. We are all excited about the future of wood construction in the province and look forward to the first 6-storey, wood frame building built in Ontario." concluded Berube.

**Individual project profiles and high-resolution colour photos available on request.**

**For additional information or to arrange interviews contact Sarah Hicks:**

**1-866-886-3574 ext. 3 • 1-705-796-3381 (cell / best) • [shicks@cwcc.ca](mailto:shicks@cwcc.ca)**

*Wood WORKS! is a national, industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council that promotes and supports the use of wood in all types of construction. Working with the design community, Wood WORKS! connects practitioners with resources related to the use of wood in commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-unit residential construction, assists in product sourcing, and delivers educational seminars and training opportunities to existing and future practitioners.*

[www.wood-works.org](http://www.wood-works.org)

## 2014 Ontario Wood *WORKS!* Award Winners

Award	Winner
<p><b>Ontario Wood</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry</i></p>	<p><b>Project:</b> <u>Grotto (San Souci, ON)</u>  <b>Architect:</b> Partisan Projects  <b>Engineer:</b> Moses Structural Engineers Inc.</p> <p>Wood was chosen for this private sauna, located on a remote island near San Souci, because it was the only material that could achieve the high list of demands for the project. For the interior, wood is essential to the performance of the sauna. It is able to absorb heat and humidity, yet retain its stability and remain comfortable to the touch. Wood also enabled the freedom to carve the sensuous forms of the interior. It is smooth and pleasurable to touch. In addition, all senses are engaged inside the sauna – the wood creaks as it is heated and the smell of cedar is unmistakable. Locally sourced Eastern White Cedar cedar was used. The wood is also very much alive – it expands and contracts, and will change in colour and texture over time as its users engage with it. At the exterior, the burnt wood cladding continues the interior narrative of steam, water and heat. It provides the superior flexibility, longevity and beauty that needed for this demanding and complex project.</p> <p>Due to the remote and difficult nature of the site, the only way to achieve the precision and sophistication of the interior was to prefabricate the building and deliver it to the site via a barge and crane. Prefabrication off-site meant that the builder spent only three weeks on site (doing foundations, finishing the cladding and connecting services). Given that bringing materials to the island is a six hour round-trip by barge, minimizing the time spent on site saved tremendous labour and energy, and minimized site disturbance resulting from the construction process. Thus the project is an example of a highly sustainable method of building in Canada’s remote areas.</p>
<p><b>Green Building Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by OWL Distribution</i></p>	<p><b>Project:</b> <u>Richcraft Recreation Complex (Kanata, ON)</u>  <b>Architect:</b> Salter Pilon Architecture Inc.  <b>Engineer:</b> exp Services Inc.</p> <p>Richcraft Recreation Complex – Kanata (RRCK) fulfills a long-standing need for a major recreation complex in the rapidly growing Kanata North and West Carleton/March area. Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, the layout of this recreation complex includes a large double gymnasium, a fitness facility, various community spaces as well as an 8-lane 25 metre pool and leisure pool. The inherent warmth and sense of comfort that wood creates makes it particularly relevant for this recreation centre. During the planning, efforts were made to ensure public inclusiveness, resulting in a design concept reflective of a “home with a big backyard” rather than that of a generic, institutional recreation complex. For this design, wood was an effective, multi-purpose material which was integrated into a variety of structural and decorative applications.</p> <p>With growing pressure to reduce the carbon footprint of the built environment, the City of Ottawa presented a strong sustainable design agenda. They expected better performance and low environmental impact from the construction, which made wood the logical choice for the facility. Life cycle assessment studies, which assess products over their entire life span from acquisition through to final disposition, have shown that certified wood has a lower impact on the environment when compared to steel and concrete. At the RRCK, reducing the environmental impact was accomplished by the incorporation of certified wood products. 84% of all wood-based materials and products introduced on this project were certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council’s Principles and Criteria. In addition, solid Maple slats and Eastern White cedar planks were sourced from local mills, resulting in minimal transportation requirements.</p> <p>The City of Ottawa implemented a sustainability plan to improve the quality of life and quality of place concurrently with the stewardship of the natural environment. Part of this strategy involves encouragement to create high performance buildings and the use of renewable energy. The use of</p>

	<p>wood played a crucial role, not only in the aesthetic design of the project, but also in the overall approach to sustainability.</p>
<p><b>Interior Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Boise Cascade</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>School of Social Sciences (Ottawa, ON)</u></b>  <b>Architect: Diamond Schmitt Architects in joint venture with KWC Architects</b>  <b>Engineer: Halsall Associates</b></p> <p>The new Social Sciences Building at the University of Ottawa is a prominent landmark for the downtown campus and serves as a gateway from the city. It features a 15-storey tower, a curved glass prow or ‘flatiron’, a six-storey pavilion with a dramatic 12-metre cantilever and connects with Vanier Hall via skywalks across two atria. One atrium has a six-storey-high biofilter living wall, the largest in North America. Numerous sustainable design measures, integral to the design of the building, contributed to its LEED Gold certification, including the use of FSC certified wood.</p> <p>Wood products are used in several prominent locations and are positioned throughout the tower and its connecting components. In the atria and other major public spaces, wood is used as an acoustic element. Two and three-storey high cherry wood slatted screens are located adjacent to the feature stair in the north atrium and now line the existing wall of Vanier Hall in the main atrium. The exterior of a 225-seat auditorium is clad with wood panels to give this important space a strong presence within the atrium. The wood cladding extends vertically up two stories and continues around the underside of the auditorium on the sloped ceiling above the café seating area and main entrance lobby created by the raked floor of the auditorium seating. In this way, wood welcomes people through this gateway entrance to the campus.</p> <p>Wood paneling also surrounds the entrance areas to the other large classrooms on the lower floors making them prominent and welcoming. In all instances, the wood paneling is used to provide acoustic absorption, which is essential in these large interconnected spaces. In addition, the presence of wood on a large scale introduces a warm, rich element that brings variety to the texture and colour of these spaces as it responds to the changing quality of natural light that fills these halls in the daytime.</p> <p>Wood is central to the experience of being in the intensively occupied public spaces of this building - it positively affects the light, texture and colour of the space and is key to making it a place where the university students and faculty want to spend time. The presence of wood is a welcome and deliberate complement to the natural attraction of six floors of living plants that climb a north atrium wall.</p>
<p><b>Residential Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Weyerhaeuser</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Great Gulf Active House (Thorold, ON)</u></b>  <b>Architect: superkül</b>  <b>Engineer: Quaile Engineering</b></p> <p>The Great Gulf Active House is a new benchmark in modern, sustainable suburban Canadian development. Wood and panelized wood construction were central to the project’s achievements. From the outset the house was designed as a prefabricated, panelized wood structure to both reduce construction waste and the duration of onsite construction. Wall, floor and roof panels were factory built, flat packed and brought by truck to the site; allowing the entire frame of the house to be erected in just a few days. The 3,200 ft<sup>2</sup> house was designed to Active House standards, a Dutch metric that emphasizes energy efficiency, low environmental impact, and superior indoor environmental quality.</p> <p>Design elements that reduce the house’s environmental impact include: optimized comfort and efficiency using zoned heating; HRVs and a high-efficiency furnace; a simple, modern form with south-facing glazing oriented to maximize solar heat gain in the winter, while overhangs and window shades keep the house cool in the summer; a heavily insulated building envelope; operable skylights that flood the house with daylight and are a key component of the passive ventilation strategy; a home automation system that operates motorized shades, lighting controls, skylights and windows based on heating and cooling loads to ensure the house operates efficiently; and, a cistern and rain water system that reduces the need for municipal water when watering the lawn or using the low-flush toilets.</p>

	<p>Using the existing local design guidelines of a traditional gabled roof design and adapting them for the Active House yielded a multi-functional design that was the basis for an open plan, an abundance of interior daylight, and a house of superior environmental performance. The Thorold Active House is a watershed in Canadian residential development that pushes the boundaries of sustainable and modern design for the thousands of new homes built in Canada every year, and wood was integral in ensuring that the built form's environmental impact on its site was minimized.</p>
<p><b>Multi-Unit Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Southdown Institute (Holland Landing, ON)</u></b>  <b>Architect: Montgomery Sisam Architects</b>  <b>Engineer: Read Jones Christoffersen</b></p> <p>The Southdown Institute offers residential and outpatient psychological treatment and spiritual guidance to clergy and vowed religious. Southdown's focus of care is centred on promoting health and well-being in a setting of natural beauty. The design brief asked for a 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building on a new 6.38 acre site which, because it is part of an important watershed, will establish a natural reserve in an area which is quickly becoming built-up. Montgomery Sisam designed the building as a wood structure with a variety of wood finishes to ensure that it is an integral part of its natural surroundings.</p> <p>The building is situated around a remarkable stand of white pine trees which create a focal point for a community dedicated to the growth and healing of each of its members. All of the major communal spaces are organized around this treed courtyard. Large sliding doors create an intimate connection between the building interior and the exterior. Inside, the single loaded corridor around the courtyard is accentuated with a wood ceiling.</p> <p>A large red oak tree had to be removed to allow the building to sit in the preferred location. Rather than simply remove the tree, it was milled, dried, treated and recycled to create a featured wood panel wall in the entrance lobby as well as new entry doors. The building exterior is clad in cedar siding which is painted charcoal grey to minimize the prominence of the building massing, allowing the lush green of the landscape to predominate. The dark exterior provides a background for the brilliant primary colours of the restored stained glass window in the chapel.</p>
<p><b>Institutional-Commercial Wood Design &lt;10 M</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Resolute Forest Products</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>St. Victor Catholic School (Mattawa, ON)</u></b>  <b>Architect: Larocque Elder Architects Architectes Inc.</b>  <b>Engineer: Halsall Associates Ltd.</b></p> <p>Guided by the social, economic, and environmental fabric of the community of Mattawa, a town with a rich cultural heritage and history tied to the forest industry, the use of wood at the St. Victor Catholic School strongly supported the sustainable values of the architectural design and embodied the same earth-integrated architectural approach as the neighboring Hôpital Général Mattawa General Hospital, recipient of 2009 Wood <i>WORKS!</i> Northern Ontario Excellence Award.</p> <p>The town of Mattawa has demanding seismic requirements. The wood framing materials provide a seismic advantage (higher ductility) when compared to conventional institutional construction systems such as concrete block and structural steel members. Considering the seismic benefits of wood frame construction, and faced with the challenge of few skilled masons in the region, the superstructure for the building (with the exception of the gymnasium) was designed nearly exclusively with wood materials, employing local skilled framers, carpenters and laborers.</p> <p>Tasked with an aggressive construction schedule, use of wood framing materials (including conventional lumber framing materials, LVL wood beams and lintels, PSL wood columns, glulam wood trusses and purlins, and engineered roof joists) ultimately minimized project coordination. Working in extreme winter conditions, a local framing crew efficiently advanced the erection of the building's wood framed superstructure, maintaining the project schedule and rendering project cost savings associated with temporary heat and hoarding as would have been mandatory for typical concrete block</p>

	<p>construction.</p> <p>Complex and highly engineered, the building’s wood skeleton is tastefully finished with various wood finishes both on the exterior and interior. Wood products represent approximately 40% of the value of the building enclosure, exterior and interior finishing costs of this 24,778 ft<sup>2</sup> single-storey elementary school building.</p>
<p><b>Institutional-Commercial Wood Design</b> <b>&gt;10 M</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Natural Resources Canada</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Lansdowne Park (Ottawa, ON)</u></b> <b>Architect: CannonDesign Ltd.</b> <b>Engineer: Halsall Associates / Moses Structural Engineers Inc.</b></p> <p>Lansdowne Park is a historic sports, exhibition, and entertainment facility in Ottawa on the banks of the Rideau Canal. An integral part of the city’s history, it features the aging 24,000-seat Frank Clair Stadium and other entertainment venues. Wishing to revitalize the park and transform it into a dynamic urban environment, the city of Ottawa elected to redevelop the 47-acre park, renovating the stadium and the heritage buildings on the site, adding retail space, preserving stunning views of the Rideau Canal, and creating an urban park for the people of Ottawa.</p> <p>The signature element, and perhaps the most iconic feature of the project, is the expansive glue-laminated canopy that wraps around the stadium’s South Stands. This structure, affectionately referred to as the ‘veil,’ is an undulating skin that opens up at particular moments to allow for physical and visual connections between the stadium and the surrounding Lansdowne Park. The extensive application of wood in the project serves not only as a reminder of the national capital’s past as a logging and lumber town, but it also pays symbolic tribute to the adjacent Rideau Canal, which had an important role in facilitating the Ottawa River timber trade. This multisport complex is a true manifestation of a “stadium within a park” concept, with the veil emerging organically from an engineered and landscaped berm like a row of trees rising within the woods.</p> <p>The veil is a fluid form, with no two pieces alike, and glued-laminated wood was a natural choice because it can be formed and shaped through bending and machining to create contours. Now that advanced tools for wood design and construction, such as 3D solid modeling, are combined with CNC machining and production, wood provides a material option that cannot be matched by other materials. The structural designers explored options for structural systems and connection details with careful consideration of stability during construction. This attention to micro and macro assembly (from individual connections to entire assemblies of sections of the veil) allowed the contractor to avoid costly and time-consuming shoring and temporary cables.</p>
<p><b>Northern Ontario Excellence Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by FedNor</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Victoria Linklater Memorial School (North Spirit Lake, ON)</u></b> <b>Architect: Architecture 49</b> <b>Engineer: WSP Group</b></p> <p>North Spirit Lake First Nation is set in the heart of the majestic boreal forest of Northwestern Ontario along the shores and cliffs of North Spirit Lake. Generations of children have been spellbound by the tales of the Mamayquayshwak, a half-man and half-fish spirit reported to be dwelling along the cliffs of North Spirit Lake. The design of the Victoria Linklater school evokes the rugged nature of the cliffs along North Spirit Lake and the spirit of the Mamayquayshak through the interplay of wood and natural light, creating a transcendent space for learning. The exterior uses Western Red Cedar in combination with cliff inspired geometries to create an inviting and familiar scaled environment and backdrop for students arriving to school. The interior of the school uses the rhythm of fir glulam columns along with fir wood decking, birch millwork and natural light from above in multiple directions to provide an inspirational environment that encourages a positive identity for students that is based on culture and place.</p>

<p><b>Jury's Choice Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by LP Building Products</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Deer Clan Longhouse (Crawford Lake, ON)</u></b>  <b>Architect: Brook McIlroy</b>  <b>Engineer: Blackwell</b></p> <p>Wood has a deep cultural association with First Nations as the foundation material of traditional shelter fabrication. This Longhouse project weaves together a historic re-creation with a contemporary demonstration of wood as the primary building material in Ontario for millennia. These wood technologies are combined in a manner that honours the deep culture of First Nations and their ingenuity in building large structures and creates a warm and inviting public centre for education and celebration of this rich heritage.</p> <p>The structural system uses wood exclusively in the form of exposed arch/column glulam supports which are intentionally left with a rough-cut finish. Within the Living Lab area, exposed pine purlins and tongue and groove interior cladding provide an all-wood interior finish that is a contemporary expression which recalls the layered timber and bark of a traditional Longhouse. In the Inclusive Circle multi-media visitor area a circular domed room is enveloped in over-lapping Fir panels - each piece uniquely cut to express a sense of movement and 'unfolding' – as if the room was an animate element of nature. Three screens and three rear lit images line the base of the dome and display a variety of changing images and audio-visual content that relates the history of the Longhouse and the Wendat community that lived there over five centuries ago. Exhibit boxes inset in the circular wood perimeter walls display archeological artifacts. In one end of the Longhouse a replica display of a traditional Longhouse interior – built of wood and bark – has been created as a teaching resource.</p>
<p><b>Engineer Wood Advocate Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by FPInnovations</i></p>	<p><b>Engineer Award: <u>Blackwell (Toronto, ON)</u></b></p> <p>This year's Engineer Wood Advocate is a firm whose work is synonymous with wood design. An unprecedented four-time Engineer Award recipient, and 2010 Wood Champion award winner, Blackwell is a trusted name in timber engineering in Ontario and beyond. From small scale residential projects to massive commercial and institutional structures, no project is too small or too large for this talented firm. Dozens of wood design award winning projects have Blackwell listed as the engineer of record including 6 nominated projects this year. In addition to being talented practitioners, Blackwell's partners and associates are committed educators, engaged in teaching future practitioners at the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo about wood design, as well as supporting the continuing education of existing practitioners through speaking engagements across Canada and the United States on a wide variety of wood design topics that range from the adaptive re-use of historical timber structures right through to best practices and new innovations in the industry. We happily acknowledge Blackwell for their timber expertise and consistent contribution to the development of a wood culture in Ontario.</p>
<p><b>Architect Wood Advocate Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Timber Systems Limited</i></p>	<p><b>Architect Award: <u>ZAS Architects (Toronto, ON)</u></b></p> <p>The Architect Wood Advocate Award recognizes an individual architect or architectural firm who contributes consistently to the selection of wood in projects, overcomes objections to the use of wood in projects, and leads the way for future projects in wood. This year's winning firm has used wood as a key structural element in many projects over the years including the Gyptech Canada Head Office, Gore Meadows Community Centre and Library and the All Ranks Dining Facility, three recent large institutional/commercial buildings that were all nominated this year. The firm uses wood in innovative and beautiful ways, taking advantage of the versatility of wood in their projects to deliver building features such as large cantilevers and dramatic curving members in the All Ranks Dining Facility, and certified sustainable designs in the Dining Hall and Gore Meadows projects.</p>
<p><b>Wood Champion Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Tembec</i></p>	<p><b>Wood Champion Award: Ontario Home Builders Association, RESCON, BILD, AMO, Chair of FONOM, Chair of NOMA</b></p> <p>Wood Champions strive for excellence and stand out as persuasive advocates for wood. Whether efforts are focused on design, research, education, innovation or advocacy, the Wood Champion</p>

Award is for an individual or group whose work supports the wood industry. This year the Wood Champion award goes to a group whose efforts have helped bring about changes to the Ontario Building Code that will permit 6-storey wood-frame construction in the province.

The strong partnership and combined voice of the Ontario Home Builders Association (OHBA), the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), RESCON and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, helped code changes become a priority for the Ontario government and key stakeholder groups.

Educational efforts in the form of articles, interviews and speaking engagements further garnered industry support. Joe Vaccaro, COO of OHBA; Bryan Tuckey the President and CEO of BILD; and Richard Lyall, President of RESCON led a strong campaign with their membership. Wood frame provides another option to realize urban densification plans by municipalities all over the province, and ultimately leads to more affordable housing options. The Bedford report reiterated the need for a Mid-rise construction solution that was 'Made in Ontario'.

AMO's executive board, especially two Mayors from Northern Ontario, fully supported the Mid-rise changes, recognizing the significance Mid-rise would have to the industry that sustains their communities. Mayor David Canfield, Chair of NOMA and Mayor Al Spacek, Chair of FONOM, helped educate their peers and the Ontario government about the need for this change and the benefits it would have for all Ontarians.

Ontario Wood *WORKS!* is an industry-led program of the Canadian Wood Council that has encouraged amending the Ontario Building Code to allow a mixed use occupancy wood-frame building up to 6 storeys in height since 2010. On September 23, 2014, new provisions for wood frame construction were announced that come into effect January 1, 2015. For working together to achieve this common goal, we are pleased to recognize OHBA, BILD, RESCON and AMO as Wood Champions.

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